**Islam** by Haley Beeler

Muhammad was the founder of Islam, in 622 AD and is the last and most important prophet to this religion. The birthplace of Islam was Mecca, Saudi Arabia where Muhammad received the revelations from the angel, Jibril (Gabriel). A person that is a follower of the Islam religion is known as a Muslim. A Muslim is said to be “one who submits themselves to the will of Allah.” The name, Islam, comes from the Arabic word for peace; “salam.” Salam also means submission to God.

Capital Punishment

Islam is one of the religions that accept capital punishment. Although death penalty is allowed, they prefer to have forgiveness. Muslims believe that capital punishment is a severe sentence, but believe a court has the right to use this sentence on crimes with a certain severity. Some Islamic forms of execution include beheading, firing squad, hanging, and stoning. In some countries public executions are carried out to enhance the component of prevention. Within the Islamic law it states that the death penalty is appropriate for two groups of crime; intentional murder and Fasad fil-ardh ('spreading mischief in the land'). 'Spreading mischief in the land' includes treason, terrorism, piracy of any kind, rape, and adultery.

War

Islam permits war when in self-defense, when attacks have been made on Islamic states, and if another state is oppressing its own Muslims. They believe war should be conducted in a disciplined way, and that they should avoid injuring innocent people. During war there should be minimal necessary force, and use no anger. War is allowed in Islam in self-defense, the defense of Islam, to protect other Muslims, and to help the innocent who are being oppressed. Muslims may only wage war according to the principles of Allah’s justice.